

(I) CLAIM OR CLAIMS

We claim;

1. A trap for humanely capturing and restraining large feral animals field erected from pre-manufactured modular components comprising:

- (a) a bottom panel comprising the first modular component which includes a bottom frame of structural member means joined together by a joining means with an animal restraining means attached to said bottom frame by said joining means;
- (b) a right side panel, being that side when viewing the trap from the front, comprising the second modular component which includes a right side frame of said structural member means joined together by the joining means with said animal restraining means attached to said right side frame by the joining means;
- (c) a left side panel, being that side when viewing the trap from the front, comprising the third modular component which includes a left side frame of the structural member means joined together by the joining means with the animal restraining means attached to said left side frame by the joining means;
- (d) a top panel comprising the fourth modular component which includes a top frame of the structural member means joined together by the joining means with the animal restraining means attached to said top frame by the joining means;
- (e) a rear panel comprising the fifth modular component which includes a rear frame of the structural member means joined together by the joining means with the animal restraining means attached to said rear frame by the joining means;

- (f) a sliding gate frame comprising the sixth modular component which includes a gate frame of the structural member means joined together by the joining means with sliding gate restraining means attached to said sliding gate frame by the joining means;
- (g) a sliding gate panel comprising the seventh modular component which includes a front frame of the structural member means joined together by the joining means with animal restraining means attached to said front frame by the joining means;
- (h) a plurality of holes of diameter slightly greater than the diameter of a frame securing means drilled through the bottom frame and each of the right side frame, the left side frame, and the rear frame, and a further plurality of said holes drilled through the right side frame and the rear frame, and through the left side frame and the rear frame, and a still further plurality of the holes drilled through the top frame and each of the right side frame, the left side frame, and the rear frame, and still another further plurality of the holes drilled through the sliding gate frame and each of the right side frame and left side frame, when the bottom frame, the right side frame, the left side frame, the rear frame, the top frame, and the sliding gate frame are placed contiguously in their predetermined locations to form said trap;
- (i) a latch means for holding said sliding gate panel in the upper position;
- (j) a latch releasing means for said latch means;
- (k) a latch releasing support means for said latch releasing means;
- (l) a locking means for the sliding gate panel;
- (m) a plurality of said frame securing means of diameter slightly less than the diameter of

the holes and equal to the total number of the holes less the number of the holes drilled through the bottom frame;

(n) a plurality of the frame securing means equal to the number of the holes drilled through the bottom frame and inserted into the bottom frame and attached to the bottom frame by the joining means; and

(o) an animal baiting means;

whereby a cage is formed from modular components strong enough to humanely capture and restrain a large feral animal enticed inside by said animal baiting means.

2. A trap for humanely capturing and restraining large feral animals as claimed in Claim 1

wherein:

(a) said structural member means is square tubing of carbon steel of outside height, outside width, and wall thickness sufficient to restrain the animal intended to be captured;

(b) said joining means is comprised of any one or more of the electric-arc or beam welding methods, electron beam welding, flux cored arc welding, gas metal arc welding, gas tungsten arc welding, laser beam welding, resistance spot welding, or shielded metal arc welding, which join two pieces of compatible metal by causing a joint of metal to form between them;

(c) said animal restraining means is wire mesh fabricated of carbon steel wire of wire diameter and aperture sufficient to restrain the animal intended to be captured;

(d) said latch means is a piece of square bar stock of carbon steel of overall outside

height and outside width sufficient to support the sliding gate panel;

(e) said latch releasing means is a lanyard with one end connected to the latch means, passing in front of the animal baiting means, and the other end connected to one of a plurality of latch releasing support means;

(f) said latch releasing support means is a plurality of safety spring hooks of strength and aperture sufficient to support said lanyard;

(g) said locking means is a pop-pin of strength sufficient to prevent to the sliding gate from being raised from the inside or outside by an animal with sufficient time, intelligence, strength, or dexterity to do so;

(h) said animal baiting means is animal food sufficient to entice the animal intended to be captured to enter the trap; and

(i) said frame securing means is an adjustable clevis pin of length at least two and one-half times the outside height of said square tubing, its shaft drilled with a plurality of small holes, and a hair pin cotter of outside diameter slightly less than the said small holes.

3. A trap for humanely capturing and restraining large feral animals as claimed in Claim 1 wherein:

(a) said structural member means is square tubing of a metal selected from the group of metals comprising aluminum, magnesium, nickel, titanium, or the stainless steels, of overall outside height, outside width, and wall thickness sufficient to restrain the animal

intended to be captured;

(b) said joining means is comprised of any one or more of the electric-arc or beam welding methods, electron beam welding, flux cored arc welding, gas metal arc welding, gas tungsten arc welding, laser beam welding, resistance spot welding, or shielded metal arc welding, which join two pieces of compatible metal by causing a joint of metal to form between them and is compatible with said metal selected from the group of metals comprising aluminum, magnesium, nickel, titanium, or the stainless steels; and

(c) said animal restraining means is wire mesh fabricated of said metal wire selected from the group of metals comprising aluminum, magnesium, nickel, titanium, or the stainless steels of wire diameter and aperture sufficient to restrain the animal intended to be captured.

4. A trap for humanely capturing and restraining large feral animals as claimed in Claim 1 wherein:

(a) said structural member means is square bar stock of carbon steel of overall outside height and outside width sufficient to restrain the animal intended to be captured;

(b) said joining means is comprised of any one or more of the electric-arc or beam welding methods, electron beam welding, flux cored arc welding, gas metal arc welding, gas tungsten arc welding, laser beam welding, resistance spot welding, or shielded metal arc welding, which join two pieces of compatible metal by causing a joint of metal to form between them; and

(c) said animal restraining means is wire mesh fabricated of carbon steel wire of wire diameter and aperture sufficient to restrain the animal intended to be captured.

5. A trap for humanely capturing and restraining large feral animals as claimed in Claim 1 wherein:

(a) said structural member means is square bar stock of a metal selected from the group of metals comprising aluminum, magnesium, nickel, titanium, or the stainless steels, of overall outside height and outside width sufficient to restrain the animal intended to be captured;

(b) said joining means is comprised of any one or more of the electric-arc or beam welding methods, electron beam welding, flux cored arc welding, gas metal arc welding, gas tungsten arc welding, laser beam welding, resistance spot welding, or shielded metal arc welding, which join two pieces of compatible metal by causing a joint of metal to form between them and is compatible with said metal selected from the group of metals comprising aluminum, magnesium, nickel, titanium, or the stainless steels; and

(c) said animal restraining means is wire mesh fabricated of said metal wire selected from the group of metals comprising aluminum, magnesium, nickel, titanium, or the stainless steels of wire diameter and aperture sufficient to restrain the animal intended to be captured.

6. A trap for humanely capturing and restraining large feral animals as claimed in Claim 1

wherein:

- (a) said animal restraining means is bar stock fabricated of carbon steel sufficient to restrain the animal intended to be captured.

7. A trap for humanely capturing and restraining large feral animals as claimed in Claim 1

wherein:

- (a) said frame securing means is a plurality of thumb screw fasteners of length at least two and one-half times the outside height of said square tubing and the same number of a plurality of finger nuts.

8. A method for humanely capturing and restraining large feral animals in a trap comprising the steps of:

- (a) transporting six (6) pre-fabricated wire mesh panels and one (1) sliding gate frame to the place where said large feral animals are to be trapped;
- (b) placing a bottom panel on the ground with a plurality of frame securing means, equal to the number of holes drilled through said bottom frame attached to the frame by a joining means, pointing upward;
- (c) placing a right side panel, being that side when viewing said trap from the front, contiguously to the bottom panel such that a plurality of said frame securing means pointing upward are aligned with the same number of a plurality of holes pre-drilled in said right side panel;

- (d) joining together said right side panel to the bottom panel by a plurality of the frame securing means equal to the plurality of holes pre-drilled in the right side panel;
- (e) placing a left side panel, being that side when viewing the trap from the front, contiguously to the bottom panel such that a plurality of said frame securing means pointing upward are aligned with the same number of a plurality of holes pre-drilled in said left side panel;
- (f) joining together said left side panel to the bottom panel by a plurality of the frame securing means equal to the plurality of holes pre-drilled in the left side panel;
- (g) placing a rear panel contiguously to the bottom panel, the right side panel, and the left side panel such that a plurality of said frame securing means pointing upward from the bottom panel are aligned with the same number of a plurality of holes pre-drilled in the bottom frame of said rear panel, and further such that a plurality of holes pre-drilled in the frame of the rear panel are aligned with the same number of holes pre-drilled in the right side panel and left side panel;
- (h) joining together the rear panel to the bottom panel, the rear panel to the right side panel, and the rear panel to the left side panel, by a plurality of the frame securing means equal to the plurality of holes pre-drilled in the rear panel;
- (i) placing a top panel contiguously to the right side panel, the left side panel, and the rear panel such that a plurality of holes pre-drilled in said top panel are aligned with the same number of a plurality of holes pre-drilled in the top frame of the right side panel, the left side panel, and the rear panel;



- (j) joining together the top panel to the right side panel; the top panel to the left side panel, and the top panel to the rear panel by a plurality of the frame securing means equal to the plurality of holes pre-drilled in the top panel;
- (k) placing a sliding gate frame contiguously to the right side panel and to the left side panel such that a plurality of holes pre-drilled in said sliding gate frame are aligned with the same number of a plurality of holes pre-drilled in the front frame of the right side panel and the front frame of the left side panel;
- (l) joining together the sliding gate frame to the right side panel and to the left side panel by a plurality of the frame securing means equal to the plurality of holes pre-drilled in the sliding gate frame;
- (m) inserting a sliding gate panel into the sliding gate frame;
- (n) lowering the sliding gate panel to its lower-most position;
- (o) securing a latch means to the front frame of the top panel with the frame securing means such that said latch means is free to rotate about the frame securing means;
- (p) placing an animal baiting means inside and towards the rear of the trap;
- (q) connecting a latch releasing means to the latch means;
- (r) passing said latch releasing means through a plurality of latch releasing support means;
- (s) connecting the opposite end of the latch releasing means to one of said plurality of latch releasing support means such that the latch releasing means passes in front of said animal baiting means;

- (t) retracting a locking means for the sliding gate so that it may be raised;
- (u) raising the sliding gate panel to a point such that its lowermost frame is above the latch means;
- (v) rotating the latch means until it obstructs the downward movement of the sliding gate panel; and
- (w) resting the sliding gate panel on the latch means;

whereby a cage is formed from modular components strong enough to humanely capture and restrain a large feral animal enticed inside by the animal baiting means.

9. A trap for humanely capturing and restraining large feral animals as claimed in Claim 8 wherein:

- (a) said joining means is comprised of any one or more of the electric-arc or beam welding methods, electron beam welding, flux cored arc welding, gas metal arc welding, gas tungsten arc welding, laser beam welding, resistance spot welding, or shielded metal arc welding, which join two pieces of compatible metal by causing a joint of metal to form between them;
- (b) said latch means is a piece of square bar stock of carbon steel of overall outside height and outside width sufficient to support the sliding gate panel;
- (c) said latch releasing means is a lanyard with one end connected to the latch means, passing in front of the animal baiting means, and the other end connected to one of a plurality of safety spring hooks;

(d) said latch releasing support means is a plurality of safety spring hooks of strength and aperture sufficient to support said lanyard;

(e) said locking means is a pop-pin of strength sufficient to prevent to the sliding gate from being raised from the inside or outside by an animal with sufficient time, intelligence, strength, or dexterity to do so;

(f) said animal baiting means is animal food sufficient to entice the animal intended to be captured to enter the trap; and

(g) said frame securing means is an adjustable clevis pin of length at least two and one-half times the outside height of said square tubing, its shaft drilled with a plurality of small holes, and a hair pin cotter of outside diameter slightly less than the said small holes.